

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pressure controlling apparatus for controlling a pressure in a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using a pressure difference, comprising:

a supplying portion for supplying a compressed gas to be supplied to the container;

a flow passage for supplying the compressed gas from the supplying portion to the container; and

a first switching valve, being inserted into the passage, capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the supplying portion side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside;

an exhausting portion for exhausting a gas from the container; and

a second switching valve for switching a pressure applying mode for applying a pressure to the container and an exhausting mode for exhausting the gas from the container,

wherein the flow passage includes

a first path for connecting the supplying portion and the second switching valve,

a second path for connecting the exhausting portion and the second switching valve, and

a third path for connecting the second switching valve through to the container side, and

wherein the first switching valve is inserted into the third path.

2. (Original) The pressure controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the switching between the first mode and the second mode is performed exclusively with one same operation.

3. (Original) The pressure controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of a leak valve and a relief valve connected to the flow passage.

4. (Original) The pressure controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein a part of the flow passage is an air tube having a connecting portion connected to the container, and

wherein a filter is inserted between the first switching valve and the connecting portion.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The pressure controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a compressor, driven by an electricity generated by a generator, the generator being driven by an engine for driving a transporting vehicle for transporting the container with the pressure controlling apparatus being mounted thereon; and

a tank for storing the compressed gas compressed by the compressor and supplied from the supplying portion.

7. (Original) The pressure controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a compressor driven by an electricity of a battery for supplying electricity to a motor, the motor driving the transporting vehicle for transporting the container with the pressure controlling apparatus being mounted thereon; and

a tank for storing the compressed gas being compressed by the compressor and being supplied from the supplying portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A transporting vehicle for transporting a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using

a pressure difference, comprising:

- an engine for driving the vehicle;
- a generator driven by the engine;
- a compressor driven by an electricity generated by the generator;
- a tank for storing a compressed gas compressed by the compressor; and
- a pressure controlling portion, having an interface portion detachably disposed

against the container, for applying a pressure in the container via the interface portion, the pressure control portion including

a flow passage for supplying the compressed gas from the compressor to the container,

a first switching valve, being inserted into the passage, capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the compressor side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside,

an exhausting portion for exhausting a gas from the container, and

a second switching valve for switching a pressure applying mode for applying a pressure to the container and an exhausting mode for exhausting the gas from the container,

the flow passage including

a first path for connecting the compressor and the second switching valve,

a second path for connecting the exhausting portion and the second switching valve, and

a third path for connecting the second switching valve through to the container side,

the first switching valve being inserted into the third path.

9. (Original) The transporting vehicle as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:
a filter disposed on a line connecting the compressor and the tank.
10. (Original) The transporting vehicle as set forth in claim 8,

wherein the container has a hatch capable of being opened and closed on a top surface of the container and the interface portion is detachably disposed against a connecting portion on the hatch provided for controlling the pressure in the container.

11. (Currently Amended) A transporting vehicle for transporting a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using a pressure difference, comprising:

- a motor for driving the vehicle;

- a battery for supplying an electricity to the motor;

- a compressor driven by the electricity in the battery;

- a tank for storing a compressed gas compressed by the compressor; and

- a pressure controlling portion, having an interface portion detachably disposed against the container, for applying a pressure in the container via the interface portion, the pressure control portion including

 - a flow passage for supplying the compressed gas from the compressor to the container,

 - a first switching valve, being inserted into the passage, capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the compressor side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside,

 - an exhausting portion for exhausting a gas from the container, and

 - a second switching valve for switching a pressure applying mode for applying a pressure to the container and an exhausting mode for exhausting the gas from the container,

 - the flow passage including

 - a first path for connecting the compressor and the second switching valve,

 - a second path for connecting the exhausting portion and the second switching valve, and

 - a third path for connecting the second switching valve through to the container

side,

the first switching valve being inserted into the third path.

12. (Currently Amended) A transporting vehicle for transporting a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using a pressure difference, comprising:

a compressor;

a tank for storing a compressed gas compressed by the compressor;

an air tube, having an interface portion detachably disposed against the container on one end, and being connected through to the tank;

a flow passage for supplying the compressed gas from the compressor to the container, the flow passage having a line becoming a flow passage of a gas flowing between the tank and the air tube, in which a gas flows;

a first leak valve connected to the line; and

a filter disposed on the line and between the first leak valve and the interface portion;

a first switching valve, being inserted into the passage, capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the compressor side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside;

an exhausting portion for exhausting a gas from the container; and

a second switching valve for switching a pressure applying mode for applying a pressure to the container and an exhausting mode for exhausting the gas from the container.

the flow passage including

a first path for connecting the compressor and the second switching valve,

a second path for connecting the exhausting portion and the second switching valve, and

a third path for connecting the second switching valve through to the container side,

the first switching valve being inserted into the third path.

13. (Original) The transporting vehicle as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:
a second leak valve disposed between the first leak valve and the interface portion and connected to the line, wherein the filter is disposed between the second leak valve and the interface portion and on the line.

14. (Currently Amended) A transporting vehicle for transporting a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using a pressure difference, comprising:

a compressor;

a tank for storing a compressed gas compressed by the compressor;

a vacuum pump;

an air tube, having an interface portion detachably disposed against the container on one end;

a first switching portion capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the compressor side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside;

a second switching portion;

a first line becoming a flow passage of a gas flowing between the tank and the second switching portion;

a second line becoming a flow passage of a gas flowing between the vacuum pump and the second switching portion; and

a third line becoming a flow passage of a gas flowing between the second switching portion and the air tube,

wherein the first switching portion is inserted into the third line being inserted with a switching valve, and

wherein the second switching portion switches a connection between the first line and the third line, and the connection between the second line and the third line.

15. (Original) The transporting vehicle as set forth in claim 14, further comprising:
a first leak valve disposed between the tank and the interface portion and on one of the first line and the third line; and
a filter disposed between the first leak valve and the interface portion and on one of the first line and the third line.
16. (Currently Amended) The transporting vehicle as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:
a second leak valve disposed between the second switching portion and one end of the air tube and connected to the third line,
wherein the filter is disposed between the second leak valve and the air tube on the third line.
17. (Currently Amended) A pressure difference controlling unit being mounted on a transporting vehicle, holding a container capable of storing a molten metal and supplying the molten metal to an outside using a pressure difference, comprising:
a compressor;
a tank for storing a compressed gas compressed by the compressor; and
a pressure controlling portion, having an interface portion detachably disposed against the container, for applying a pressure in the container via the interface portion with the compressed gas, the pressure control portion including
a flow passage for supplying the compressed gas from the compressor to the container,
a first switching valve, being inserted into the passage, capable of manually switching a first mode that enables the passage of the gas between the compressor side and the container side and a second mode that enables the passage of the gas between the container side and the outside,
an exhausting portion for exhausting a gas from the container, and
a second switching valve for switching a pressure applying mode for applying

a pressure to the container and an exhausting mode for exhausting the gas from the container,

the flow passage including

a first path for connecting the compressor and the second switching valve,

a second path for connecting the exhausting portion and the second switching valve, and

a third path for connecting the second switching valve through to the container side,

the first switching valve being inserted into the third path.